Waltham, December 25th, 1865

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Dear Friend Garrison. As the Liberator is drawing to its close, the end for which it was established, the abolition of American slavery, having been attained, I cannot permit the ocasion to pass by, without expressing to you my congratulations on the glorious accomplishment of the object for which you have so long labored. Although this great event was not brought about by the means which you, in common with other lovers of our race might have wished, that is, by the voluntary movement of the slaveholders themselves, acting from their moral convictions of the sinfulness of slavery, yet we are none the less called upon to rejoice in its consummation, though brought about by the exigencies of civil war, inaugurated by the slaveholders themselves.

I can recal no event in the history of man or nations, in which the folly of wickedness is better illustrated than in the results of our late civil war. Begun as it was by a haughty & domineering aristocracy, because of their hatred of the true democratic equality of man, and their unwillingness to acquiesce in the election of government officers made by the people, & carried on by the most oppressive and grinding despotism upon the Union people of their own states, it has resulted in the

overthrow of the aristocracy who inaugurated it, and of the system of slavery which the war was intended to perpetuate. In these results who does not see the hand of God, "from seeming evil still educing good", and the verification of that oft repeated saying that "whom the gods intend to destroy they first make mad"? The madness of the slaveholders brought on the rebellion, & that has resulted in the freedom of the slaves. God be praised! Let all the nations & peoples of the earth praise Him!

Most heartily do I join with you in your expressions of joy at this glorious event, contained in the last Liberator. I also rejoice that you have been permitted to live to see this happy day. Long may you yet live, & soon see the freedmen elevated intellectually, morally & politically, from the degradation to which slavery had brought them, to an equality with other American citizens.

I wish I could express to you how much I shall miss the Liberator. Although I concur with you & others that as slavery is abolished, the publication of the "Liberator" is no longer required, yet as it has been for many years my constant weekly companion, & the source whence I have derived much light to guide me in the path of duty, I cannot part with it without feelings

of deep regret, akin to what we feel on parting forever from a long tried & intimate personal friend.

"New occasions bring new duties". The emancipation of the slaves has brought the new duty of the education, & the moral, intellectual, & political elevation of the freedmen. In this work I am glad to find by recent Liberators that you are already engaged. It is what I should expect from your known philanthropy. The work of educating and elevating the freedmen is a vast one, & will require the untiring energies of the friends of the race, & much of the same kind of patient, courageous & persevering labor which has been expended in their liberation. Yet if our national government proves true to its duty to the freedmen, we may hope that the work of elevation will not prove so arduous, perilous, or so long in duration as the work of emancipation has been.

From some of the late Liberators I learn that the income of the paper during this present year will not be sufficient to defray its expenses; I therefore inclose five dollars which I request you to accept as a contribution from me towards paying up the balances. Hoping that we shall often hear from you through the medium of the public prints, I am,

Very truly your friend, Jarvis Lewis.

William Lloyd Garrison

Boston,

Mass.